

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: USLOK MANNING:REJOINDER TO GOK VIEWS

REF: (A) KUWAIT 3733 DTD 071337Z AUG 76 (B) KUWAIT 1054
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1. WE PRESUME THAT DISCUSSIONS ON APPROPRIATE USLOK MANNING
AS WELL AS EVENTUAL GOK AGREEMENT TO THE REVISED USLOK
AUGMENTATION CASE ARE PROCEEDING. IN THAT CONNECTION, STATE/
DEFENSE WISHED TO PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH SOME FACTUAL BACK-UP
MATERIAL SO THAT EMBASSY WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO DEFEND OUR
VIEWS ON APPROPRIATE MANNING LEVEL FOR USLOK.

2. THE USLOK MANNING OF SIX OFFICERS AND TWO ENLISTED
BILLETS PLUS THE CHIEF USLOK IS THE MINIMUM ESSENTIAL NUM-
BER OF PERSONNEL REQUIRED TO ADEQUATELY ADMINISTER THE FMS
PROGRAMS IN KUWAIT- EACH BILLET WAS CAREFULLY CHOSEN TO
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PROVIDE NOT ONLY A PLANNING FUNCTION BUT THE ADDITIONAL
BENEFIT OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS EXPERT IN THE TECHNICAL AS-

PECTS OF EACH US WEAPONS SYSTEM OFFERED.

3. EMBASSY MIGHT ALSO WISH TO POINT OUT TO GOK THAT INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATORS FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S OWN IGA

OFFICE TERMED USLOK "GROSSLY UNDERSTAFFED" AND HENCE UNABLE TO PROVIDE RESPONSIVE SERVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO THE GOK.

4. THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CURRENT UNDERSTAFFING OF THE USLOK CAN BE ILLUSTRATED BY COMPARING THE RATIO OF FMS PROGRAM DOLLARS TO PERSONNEL ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM FOR SEVERAL AREA COUNTRIES:

.....	MAAG	FMS	DOLS MILLIONS	
COUNTRY	STRENGTH	DOLS MILLIONS	US REP	
KUWAIT.....	4.....	662.....	165.50	
IRAN.....	248.....	2,500.....	10.08	
SAUDI				
ARABIA....	160.....	1,400.....	8.75	
JORDAN....	14.....	98.8.....	7.05	

5. WE HOPE THE GOK AGREES THAT USLOK SHOULD BE THE IN-COUNTRY FOCAL POINT FOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES. THE REDUCTIONS SUGGESTED BY THE GOK IN REFTEL A WOULD ELIMINATE THE AIR DEFENSE STAFF OFFICER, AIR OPERATIONS OFFICER, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE OFFICER AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR. DELETION OF THESE FUNCTIONS WILL SEVERELY IMPACT ON THE ABILITY OF THE USLOK TO ASSIST AND ADVISE THE GOK. THE AIR DEFENSE STAFF OFFICER PROVIDES THE TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL EXPERTISE NECESSARY TO SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCE AND SUPPORT THE I-HAWK SYSTEM. THE AIR OPERATIONS OFFICER IS A HIGHLY QUALIFIED AIR DEFENSE PILOT SPECIALLY TRAINED TO PROVIDE ADVICE FOR AN INTEGRATED AIRCRAFT AND MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM. THE AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE OFFICER IS AN EXPERT IN BOTH THE USN MAINTENANCE AND LOGISTIC SYSTEMS, BOTH OF WHICH MUST FUNCTION IN CONCERT IF THE A-4 PROGRAM IS TO SUCCEED. THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR IS REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE MYRIAD SUPPORT FUNCTIONS NECESSITATED BY THE FMS PROGRAMS AND RELIEVE THE PRINCIPAL STAFF OFFICERS

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FROM AN ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN THAT COULD DETRACT FROM THEIR PRIMARY DUTIES. ANY REDUCTION IN THE FUNCTIONAL BILLET DESCRIPTIONS PREVIOUSLY STATED WILL BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND DETRIMENTAL TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WEAPONS SYSTEMS THE GOK HAS ALREADY SPENT SO MUCH MONEY TO PROCURE. EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS TO GOK THAT CUTTING USLOK IS A FALSE ECONOMY WHICH SAVES LITTLE WHILE RISKING SIGNIFICANT WASTE IN WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SPENT.

6. ALTHOUGH COSTS INCURRED BY THE USG TO TRAIN AND PROCESS

POTENTIAL USLOK PERSONNEL MAY SEEM INCIDENTAL TO THE GOK,
THE PERSONAL HARDSHIPS FOR THE INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED TO

KUWAIT CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED. ONCE AN INDIVIDUAL IS IDENTIFIED AND PLACED IN TRAINING FOR A BILLET, HE IS REMOVED FROM CONSIDERATION FOR OTHER POSITIONS WITHIN HIS SERVICE AND IS THUS LOST AS A USABLE ASSET. THIS, COUPLED WITH DEPRIVATIONS SUFFERED BY HIS FAMILY AWAITING ASSIGNMENT, MAKES FURTHER DELAY OF A USLOK MANNING AGREEMENT AN UNDUE HARDSHIP ON THE EXCEPTIONALLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL CHOSEN FOR THE BILLETS.
ROBINSON

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